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Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review

Volume 29

Number 4 *Symposia—The Religious Voice in the
Public Square and Executing the Wrong Person:
The Professionals' Ethical Dilemmas*

Article 9

6-1-1996

Walter Trinkaus

Grace C. Tonner

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Recommended Citation

Grace C. Tonner, *Walter Trinkaus*, 29 Loy. L.A. L. Rev. 1387 (1996).

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WALTER TRINKAUS

*Grace C. Tonner**

I first met Walter Trinkaus as a third-year law student in his Remedies II class at Loyola. We quickly learned that Walter's class was not simply a study of cases but a series of stories taken from his many experiences as a lawyer. Walter's stories revealed much more than the law of remedies; they showed us how to effectively represent clients, how to properly treat each other, and how to practice law ethically. Walter also helped us put our first two years of law school in perspective because he placed a human face on the hypothetical problems of the classroom. Therefore, we will always be grateful to Professor Trinkaus for sharing his experiences as a lawyer.

When I joined the Loyola faculty, Walter became a treasured colleague and friend. When I needed help in drafting a legal writing problem, Walter always had a useful suggestion. He had an uncanny ability to remember case names and could invariably locate copies of those cases in his overflowing office. And, as always, Walter rendered wonderful stories to accent the issues that interested him. This time I was grateful for his willingness to share his experiences as a teacher.

When Walter retired from full-time teaching he returned to the practice of law, and when I see him, I can see him surrounded by a pile of books in the faculty library while tackling a new, difficult issue. His love of learning never left him, and I am told that before he died, he was tackling Einstein's theory of relativity.

I will always remember Walter as representing the best qualities a lawyer should have. He was honest. He was loyal. And he was always a gentleman. His generosity and enthusiasm for learning were contagious. And when I remember Walter's stories I remember that we learned much more than legal issues. We learned that enthusiasm for the practice of law is a gift to share. Walter was ever generous.

* Clinical Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the Legal Practice Program, University of Michigan Law School. Professor Tonner was a Professor of Law at Loyola Law School from 1979 to 1985, an Adjunct Professor of Law from 1986 to 1987 and 1991 to 1992, and the Director of Legal Writing from 1992 to 1995.

